

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 /072 W
-----061367 111115Z /65

R 101700Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8390
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PBOR, SF, LT
SUBJECT: LESOTHO ANNOUNCES APPREHENSION OF TWO SOUTH AFRICAN
SECURITY AGENTS

1. FONMIN C.D. MOLAPO, IN UNSCHEDULED STATEMENT TO NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY MARCH 10, TO WHICH HEADS OF MISSIONS WERE SUMMONED,
ANNOUNCED THAT TWO SOUTH AFRICAN MEN HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED ON
CHARGES OF BEING OFFICIALS OF BOSS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY
ORGANIZATION. HE IDENTIFIED THE PAIR AS KENNETH FREDERICK MONSON
AND THERON SHIPPER AND ADDED THAT SHIPPER QTE ADMITTED BEING AN
OFFICER OF BOSS UNQTE.

2. IN A PREFACE TO HIS BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT, THE FONMIN RECALLED
THAT SIX MONTHS AGO QTE I USED A STATEMENT OVER RADIO LESOTHO
TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT AGENTS OF BOSS IN LESOTHO..AND I WAS
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COMPELLED (TO IDENTIFY) A COLONEL CLARK, STAGING (OPERATING) IN
LESOTHO. HE THREATENED CITIZENS OF LESOTHO IF THEY REFUSED TO
COOPERATE IN HIS NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES. TO DATE, THIS AGENT OF
ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, THIS AGENT OF PRETORIA, HAS SIXTY OF OUR
CITIZENS ON HIS EVIL LIST OF THREATS. THEY ARE THREATS OF BANNING,
CONTRARY TO STANDING AGREEMENT OF TRANSIT AND ENTRY INTO SOUTH
AFRICAUNQTE.

3. AFTER MAKING HIS STATEMENT, THE FONMIN, RESPONDING TO TWO QUESTIONS, ASKED FROM THE FLOOR BY AN ASSEMBLY MEMBER REGARDING MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING QTE TO COUNTERACT THESE ACTIVITIES UNQTE, THE FONMIN ASSURED THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS QTE PROTECTING THE CITIZENS AGAINST THESE THREATS.. TAKING EVERY (NECESSARY) STEP.... UNLIKE SOUTH AFRICA WE HAVE NOT BEEN HARASSING THE PEOPLE AT THE BORDER. IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR GOVERNMENT WE KEEP OUR VIGILANT EYE ON THE SUSPECT--NOT ON SOUTH AFRICA. THAT'S HOW WE HAPPENDED TO GET THE CULPRITS UNQTE.

4. COMMENT: SPECULATING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FONMIN'S STATEMENT, AND THE LOCALE FOR DELIVERY, EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT STATEMENT IS ANOTHER SKIRMISH IN LESOTHO'S NEW WORD WAR WHICH OPENED AT THE UNITED NATIONS EARLIER THIS WEEK. REPORTING ON LESOTHO'S LETTER TO UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM, JOHANNESBURG "STAR" MARCH 8 IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION REPORT FROM NEW YORK, DESCRIBED LESOTHO AS QTE DECLARING ITSELF TO BE 'IN A STATE OF SIEGE' OWING TO ALLEGED BORDER RESTRICTIONS BY SOUTH AFRICA UNQTE.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA AMBASSADOR, DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH BOSS AGENTS HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED IN THE PAST, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE APPREHENSION WAS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY.

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IF LESOTHO WISHED MAXIMUM EXPOSURE, DELIVERING THE STATEMENT BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY, SHORTLY AFTER NOON, WAS AN EFFECTIVE MOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES. END COMMENT.
BIELAK

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